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[10537/68]

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 3613

RECEIVED

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 05 2002

GROUP 3600

Applicant(s) : Christian LAUBLE et al.
Serial No. : 09/485,074
Filed : September 27, 2000
For : VIBRATION DAMPER FOR A TUBULAR DRIVE SHAFT
Examiner : Melody M. Burch
Art Unit : 3613

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Handwritten notes and stamps: 3/25/02, 4/16/02, and a signature.

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of October 25, 2001, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9, 11 and 17 to 20 as follows:

9. (Twice Amended) A vibration damper for a tubular propeller shaft in the drive train of a motor vehicle, the vibration damper comprising:

a sleeve, the sleeve defining a radial and circumferential direction;
a mass body mounted concentrically in the sleeve;
a plurality of rubber spring elements for mounting the mass body to the sleeve; and

a plurality of flexible stop elements disposed circumferentially between each adjacent pair of spring elements and disposed between the mass body and the sleeve to define a discrete space to limit a vibration travel of the mass body at least in the radial direction, wherein each stop element extends over a larger circumferential angle than the spring elements and occupy a large portion of a space between the mass body, the spring elements and the sleeve.

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Amendments
not recommended
for entry by
Examiner
MB 4/22/02